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Chair: Mr. Turbék (Vice-Chair) (Hungary)

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In the absence of Mr. Danon (Israel), Mr. Turbék (Hungary), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.6/71/1 and A/C.6/71/L.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/71/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/71/L.1).

2. With regard to agenda item 74, "Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts", it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Luna (Brazil), to continue its consideration of the item, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 79, "Diplomatic protection", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Joyini (South Africa), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 85, "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Ms. Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

7. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 108, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka), with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continuing to discuss the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee's work, contained in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/71/L.1).

10. In accordance with established practice, the proposed work programme would be applied with flexibility in light of the progress made by the Committee, which would take action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. He encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to use *Unite Connections* for the presentation of texts of the draft resolutions as early as possible and to submit them preferably no later than one week after the completion of the debate of the Committee on each item or the completion of the work of the relevant working group, as the case might be. The taking of action on draft resolutions would always be announced, in advance, in the *Journal of the United Nations*. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** said that the Committee must allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. In that connection, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 27 October 2016, except for draft resolutions relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of the conference resources and facilities made available to it. Although in the past three sessions it had achieved utilization rates above the established benchmark figure of 80 per cent, during the most recent session it had lost 1,015 minutes because of meetings starting late or ending early.

15. He took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to representatives of regional groups or other groups of States.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 59/313, which invited Member States that were aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions made in their national capacity on points that had not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chair** said that the Committee would continue to use the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and cost-effectiveness in its working methods. Delegations were therefore encouraged to rely on the electronic versions of official documents, as the traditional hard copy distribution of documents and statements had been discontinued. Delegations were asked to send electronic copies of their statements to the PaperSmart team for uploading to the PaperSmart portal and to provide 30 hard copies of their statements for the technical services. The PaperSmart portal would be updated on a daily basis and was freely accessible to anyone with Internet access. It was intended to supplement the existing website of the Committee and *Unite Connections*. Nonetheless, paper versions of official documents could be made available upon request.

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/71/182, A/71/182/Add.1 and A/71/182/Add.2 and A/C.6/70/SR.27)

20. **The Chair** drew attention to the Secretary-General's report on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/71/182, A/71/182/Add.1, A/71/182/Add.2), the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 on the work of its sixteenth session (A/68/37), and the oral report by the Chair of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism of the seventieth session, contained in document A/C.6/70/SR.27.

21. **Mr. Cortorreal** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. More than ever, terrorism represented a serious threat both to Member States, as it disrupted social structures, and to the international community, since it compromised regional stability and global security. CELAC called for greater awareness of the need to protect victims, particularly women and children, and condemned terrorist groups that deliberately and systematically engaged in sexual violence and in the destruction of world heritage sites and other cultural property.

22. It was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that they could not justify terrorist acts. Such conditions included prolonged unresolved conflicts, discrimination, dehumanization of victims, absence of the rule of law, human rights violations and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Terrorism could be contained effectively only through enhanced international cooperation, led by the United Nations. CELAC strongly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed its fifth review; it continued to attach importance to the integrated and balanced implementation of its four pillars. Efforts should be made to combat xenophobia, foster inclusion and dispel stereotypes associated with specific cultures, religious or ethnic groups. Responses to the refugee crisis should reduce rather than increase the risk associated with violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

23. Measures to combat terrorism must always be in strict compliance with international law, as emphasized in General Assembly resolution 68/178 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Action taken outside that framework was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable.

CELAC continued to reject unilateral blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism; they were incompatible with international law and should be discontinued. The Community emphasized the need to safeguard humanitarian work and expressed concern at recent violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of drones.

24. The Latin American and Caribbean region had also fallen victim to terrorist acts. The Community strongly condemned such attacks and the circumstances that had enabled those responsible to evade justice. All States were urged to comply without delay with their obligations under international law and to cooperate actively in order to bring perpetrators to justice and avoid impunity. In that regard, CELAC recalled that 2016 marked the fortieth anniversary of an attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft.

25. The international community could not afford to postpone indefinitely the convening of a high-level conference to overcome the obstacles to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the subject and resolve the issue of defining terrorist acts. A clear legal regime would strengthen the rule of law in countering international terrorism; indeed, respect for international law was a precondition for the success of the fight against terrorism. The CELAC group of countries remained committed to working for the prompt finalization of a comprehensive convention. They urged Member States to show flexibility in resolving all pending issues by the end of the current session of the General Assembly, particularly in the context of the relevant working group of the Sixth Committee.

26. **Mr. Nasimfar** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally condemned the crime of terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly implicated. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security, and had adverse consequences for economic and social development.

27. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling of suspects and intrusion on privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned.

28. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should themselves refrain from encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and supplying weapons or arms which could be used for that purpose.

29. The Non-Aligned Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism. It also firmly rejected the unilateral elaboration of lists accusing States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism. States should also refuse to provide political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status.

30. The Movement expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and called on all States to cooperate. In that connection, it called upon the United Nations to facilitate capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States in addressing the problem, upon request. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the international instruments on combating terrorism. The Movement was also deeply concerned at the terrorist groups'

misrepresentation of religions to justify terrorism and violent extremism. It was essential to address terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner, including by engaging with community leaders and clerics of all denominations.

31. All States should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law and their obligations under international law. The Non-Aligned Movement called on the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures through an independent, transparent and permanent position of ombudsperson.

32. The Movement reiterated its call for a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized and, to that end, States should cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It encouraged all Member States to collaborate with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. It strongly condemned the practice of hostage-taking for the purpose of demanding ransom or gaining political concessions and called on all States to cooperate actively in addressing the problem.

33. **Mr. Matjila** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the African States condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, by whomever and against whomever committed. The African Group appreciated the work done thus far to prepare a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continued to attach importance to the early finalization of that instrument. It remained willing to work with others to achieve consensus on the draft convention and to continue refining the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to decide on an international response to terrorism should be given serious consideration.

34. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism, as reflected in the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which had come into force in 2002, the preparation in the same year of a plan of action at an intergovernmental high-level meeting on the subject and the establishment in Algiers of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism.

35. The financing of terrorism was a matter of great concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms. The African Group therefore urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. In view of the need to promote international cooperation and assistance, the Group welcomed the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, developed with the assistance of the United States, and the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were hamstrung by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international community for assistance in that regard.

36. **Ms. Aching** (Trinidad and Tobago) speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that terrorism was a serious threat to security at all levels and had no respect for territorial borders, race, age, gender or social class. No State was immune from it. The Caribbean region had not been spared and was still awaiting justice for the victims of a terrorist act involving the hijacking and bombing of an aircraft over the Caribbean Sea four decades previously. CARICOM remained deeply concerned at the emergence of new terrorist groups and the surge in the number of foreign terrorist fighters, many of whom were driven by profit or radicalized by subversive materials. In the light of the growing use of social media for incitement and fundraising, it was essential to develop technology to prevent terrorist use of the Internet, detect and control illicit behaviour or content online, and bring the perpetrators to justice. Community outreach programmes would help to challenge terrorist propaganda and disseminate an alternative message.

37. CARICOM was committed to strengthening and implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. There was also a need for States to take practical counter-terrorism steps both separately

and collectively, including capacity-building and improved coordination. Several CARICOM States had accordingly enacted legislation based on international counter-terrorism conventions and had also put in place measures to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. CARICOM States were also members of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and were committed to implementing their international obligations with respect to combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

38. Counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with international law, including human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. A comprehensive convention would be the appropriate instrument to prosecute terrorists and strengthen the institutional capacity of States, especially small States, to fight terrorism. The time was long overdue to take more progressive action on the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism, in particular by resolving outstanding political differences such as those relating to the legal definition of international terrorism and the scope of acts to be included in the instrument. The Community therefore welcomed the decision to establish a working group for that purpose. While CARICOM did not view the holding of a high-level conference on terrorism as a prelude to the finalization of the text of the draft convention, such a conference could be a useful opportunity for Member States to exchange views with representatives of the various counter-terrorism committees and other actors on ways of enhancing implementation of relevant resolutions and treaties.

39. **Ms. Cujo** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union was appalled by, and firmly condemned, the indiscriminate killings, human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by such terrorist organizations as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Fath al-Sham, Al-Qaida, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab. Forensic evidence of those crimes must be secured, and justice must be allowed to take its course. In the current year, the European Union had reviewed and strengthened its 2014 regional strategy on terrorism and foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq. That strategy sought to stifle and ultimately destroy ISIL through military and counter-terrorism action, while also tackling the political, economic and social root causes of instability in Syria and Iraq. The actions to be taken included targeted and upgraded dialogues, assistance packages for the Iraqi Government and active participation in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. In the Middle East and North Africa region as a whole, the European Union had strengthened its cooperation with the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. It had developed a network of counter-terrorism experts at European Union delegations in the region, and allocated over 150 million euros to strategies for the prevention of violent extremism in such countries as Somalia and Tunisia. At the internal level, the European Union was active in such areas as border control, combating radicalization, information exchange, interoperability of databases, monitoring and analysis, rehabilitation, staff training, education and youth outreach.

40. A decade after its adoption, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remained central to efforts to tackle terrorism in an integrated and balanced manner. The Secretary-General's focus on prevention and countering violent extremism was welcome. Addressing radicalism would mean working close to vulnerable individuals and affected communities and engaging with civil society. Education and youth exchanges could provide a unique opportunity to challenge extremist views. The United Nations had a significant role to play in bringing those actors together.

41. The European Union and its member States supported efforts to implement the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) and follow through on the General Assembly's call for options to be presented with a view to improving United Nations coherence. The joint statement on principles for preventing violent extremism that a member of the European Union had recently circulated to Member States of the United Natioas was an example of one relevant initiative. Several States had already indicated their support for that document, and she hoped others would follow suit.

42. The European Union believed that the work and initiatives of the Global Counterterrorism Forum ought

to be better reflected in the United Nations agenda on counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism. The Forum had recently launched the Life Cycle Toolkit, which examined the cycle from radicalization to violence. The Forum's good practice documents had guided the work of European Union policymakers and practitioners, and had also paved the way for several United Nations resolutions. The relevant United Nations entities should continue to cooperate closely with the Forum in order to maximize their impact and avoid duplication. The European Union was currently co-financing three initiatives inspired by the Forum, namely the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism ("Hedayah") in Abu Dhabi, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva. The European Union would continue to support CTITF, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The European Union and its member States had also co-financed projects initiated by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

43. The European Union called once more on all States Members of the United Nations to ratify and implement all United Nations legal instruments on counter-terrorism. It recognized Member States' efforts towards reaching an agreement on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and remained committed to its successful conclusion.

44. The European Union fully supported the Ombudsperson for the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, it was committed to strengthening due process in the sanctions regime and had taken steps to improve its procedures accordingly. The European Union firmly believed that any measures to combat terrorism must be consistent with international law.

45. The resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism that was regularly considered by the Sixth Committee overlapped to a certain extent with the negotiations taking place in the General Assembly in plenary towards a resolution to review implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It would be useful to rationalize the General Assembly's work by considering each of those items biennially in alternation. The previous session had shown that delegations were not willing to consider in the Sixth Committee items that had already been discussed in plenary.

46. **Ms. Boucher** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that despite the progress that had been made since the attacks in New York on 11 September 2001, the evolving threats that terrorism posed to international peace and security meant that the international community needed to do more to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism. The activities of groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) gave particular cause for concern.

47. Australia, Canada and New Zealand were strongly committed to combating international terrorism and, in that connection, welcomed the recommendation of the fifth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that all States should implement the recommendations of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. During the review, all Member States had reaffirmed the soundness of the Strategy's four-pillar approach and recognized that an effective response to terrorism must be global in scope. However, it was disappointing that the debate had been divisive and that it had been difficult to achieve recognition of the importance of taking action to address the spread of violent extremism. Australia, Canada and New Zealand would also have preferred General Assembly resolution 70/291, adopted during the review, to have contained stronger language on the role and rights of women and youth in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism.

48. Violent extremism was not particular to any religion, nationality, culture or ethnic group. There could be no justification for terrorism in any of its forms or manifestations.

49. Australia, Canada and New Zealand commended the Member States that had ratified and implemented the various counter-terrorism instruments in recent years, but regretted that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism continued to elude the international community. The three delegations

welcomed the forthcoming review of the Organization's counter-terrorism architecture, as effective action at the global level would require strong leadership from Member States and the United Nations. Regional institutions should also work towards solutions tailored to local contexts.

50. The international community must coordinate its efforts in order to send a message that States stood united in the fight against international terrorism. In that regard, Australia, Canada and New Zealand had worked to develop comprehensive and robust responses to terrorism through the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Those delegations also welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2309 (2016) concerning terrorist threats to civil aviation.

51. To ensure that strategies to address extremist ideology, counter its narratives and strengthen the capacity of the global community to respond to terrorist threats were effective and legitimate, they must be undertaken collectively and with full respect for international law. States must ensure that their domestic legal frameworks provided for the prosecution of perpetrators of terrorism, wherever they were, including through the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014).

52. **Mr. Samvelian** (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that CSTO member States were deeply concerned by the growing threat to international peace and security and the sovereignty of States posed by international terrorism. There could be no justification for terrorism, whether on ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or other grounds, and the CSTO countries condemned it in all its forms and manifestations, including the mass killing of civilians, the destruction of historical and cultural monuments and the desecration of religious sites. The international community should establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, a broad anti-terrorist coalition that respected the principles of international law, including the international counter-terrorism instruments, and avoided politicization and preconditions. Moreover, Member States should fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and adopt a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible.

53. The elimination of the threat to humanity posed by terrorist organizations such as ISIL, Al-Qaida and the Nusrah Front could be promoted through enhanced interaction of States at the political level and at the level of special services, ministries and departments. The CSTO countries attached particular importance to countering the ideology of terrorism and extremism and taking measures against individuals returning to those countries after serving as foreign terrorist fighters. States should do more to combat radical propaganda at the national level, including by involving civil society, the media, scientific institutions, educational establishments and religious communities in their efforts. Member States must implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), and also the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in order to suppress terrorist financing. The CSTO countries supported multilateral efforts to identify States and natural and legal persons with economic links to terrorist groups and to cut off the supply of financial and logistical assistance to those groups.

54. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the ASEAN member States were strongly committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The increasingly transnational nature of terrorism represented a significant threat to global stability and prosperity, in part because terrorism had the potential to prevent the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The constantly evolving threat must be addressed through a comprehensive approach, with the full engagement of the global community. In that context, ASEAN countries supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Given the need for an enhanced focus on prevention, they also welcomed the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. All States should work to eradicate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in particular by working towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

55. ASEAN member States had intensified their collective efforts to prevent and counter terrorist activities in their region through the adoption of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which provided a framework for regional cooperation and enhanced coordination on the prevention and suppression of terrorism.

56. The States members of ASEAN would continue to actively combat radicalization and violent extremism around the world. Terrorism could not and must not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity, and counter-terrorism efforts must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian and human rights law. The principles of independence, the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in domestic affairs were essential to ensure an effective global counter-terrorism response. The ASEAN countries stood ready to work actively with other delegations to refine and improve the global counter-terrorism architecture and attached importance to the Committee's deliberations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

57. **Ms. Diéguez La O** (Cuba) said that Cuba was committed to combating terrorism and condemned terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. The fight against terrorism must take a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its root causes.

58. The 2016 review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had led to the adoption of a resolution that recognized the efforts made by States and international organizations, taking into account their specific regional and national circumstances. However, the resolution lacked a clear condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States which illegitimately arrogated to themselves the right to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Cuba strongly condemned such acts, which undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism.

59. Moreover, the harmful practices whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and disseminated messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern information and communications technologies were violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Cuba condemned any action aimed at encouraging, supporting, financing or concealing any terrorist act, method or practice. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country.

60. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae, and it was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

61. In defence of its independence and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner on 6 October 1976, resulting in the death of 73 persons, was still at large.

62. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. Her Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work

with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts, wherever they were committed.

63. **Ms. Carnal** (Switzerland) said that her country condemned all deliberate attacks against civilians and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivations invoked by the perpetrators. It was regrettable that the Committee had not yet been able to respond to the call in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1) for the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would have strengthened the counter-terrorism regime and provided an agreed definition of terrorism. Switzerland was nevertheless convinced that the United Nations had a key role to play in combating terrorism, and it was determined to implement the relevant existing United Nations conventions and protocols and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It welcomed the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the emphasis on prevention in the resolution adopted during the 2016 review of the Strategy.

64. As recognized in that resolution, it was important to ensure that counter-terrorism legislation and other measures did not violate international humanitarian law or impede the delivery of assistance to victims of armed conflict. Given the large number of children now involved in terrorism-related activities, particular care must be taken to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international juvenile justice standards were properly applied at all times. Her delegation therefore welcomed the resolution's emphasis on children, the new United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime project to address the use of children by terrorist groups and the recent adoption of the Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counterterrorism Context by the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

65. The Committee should adopt a resolution on the biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy every two years, meaning that no such resolution should be introduced at its seventy-first session. If a resolution were to be adopted at the current session it should be simply a technical update, especially since the General Assembly would have the opportunity to take up the matter of the Strategy when concrete suggestions on changes to the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture were submitted in May 2017.

66. **Mr. Al-Qahtani** (Qatar) said that terrorism was able to thrive where human rights were violated and the rule of law was not upheld. It drew on social grievances stemming from political exclusion, marginalization based on creed or ethnicity, prolonged unresolved conflict and denial of the right to self-determination. To associate terrorism with any given religion or ethnic group would merely enable extremists to recruit and brainwash young people, not to mention fomenting the hatred of religions, of which Islamophobia was one example.

67. Qatar condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed more than ever, and Qatar would continue to be an active participant in negotiations towards its elaboration. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. A distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination.

68. Qatar had made considerable efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to fulfil its obligations under international instruments. It continued to work closely with international counter-terrorism entities, particularly CTED, CTITF and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. In June 2016, CTITF had signed a partnership agreement with the Silatech organization, which was based in Qatar. The agreement provided for capacity-building projects to protect young people from extremism. Qatar was also a founding member and prominent contributor to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund. It was a party to many bilateral agreements on security cooperation, and it worked with the judicial authorities in other countries. It continued to strengthen its legislative framework for combating terrorism, including money-laundering and cybercrime in relation to terrorism, and was monitoring several associations in the country to ensure that they did not support terrorism in any way.

69. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil) said that terrorism must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations and that there could be no justification for terrorist acts. Repudiation of terrorism was enshrined in Brazil's

Constitution as a guiding principle of its foreign policy. Brazil was a signatory to 14 international legal instruments against terrorism negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations and to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. It had also adopted domestic legislation to facilitate the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and establish a definition of terrorism.

70. It was essential for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to remain relevant and up-to-date, given the Organization's central role in the coordination of counter-terrorism efforts. It was also crucial to continue to enhance coordination within the United Nation system to ensure that it was able to effectively address the challenges. A reform of the composition and working methods of the Security Council would be useful in that regard.

71. The current absence of a universally agreed definition of international terrorism was detrimental to the common goal of eliminating it. His delegation underscored the importance of overcoming the stalemate in negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as a matter of urgency and of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Those initiatives would help to improve the coordination of joint efforts and help to ensure that all measures respected due process and human rights.

72. The lack of a universally accepted legal definition also made it difficult to have a proper understanding of the linkages between terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism. Although those three phenomena could be linked in specific circumstances, as in ISIL recruitment efforts, they were not automatically related. Racism, xenophobia and homophobia, for example, could lead to forms of violent extremism that had nothing to do with terrorism. As recognized in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), the conflation of the concepts of violent extremism and terrorism could lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts. Nor did terrorism have universal or intrinsic linkages with transnational organized crime. While terrorism represented a threat to international peace and security, transnational organized crime was a matter of public security.

73. Terrorist organizations aimed to provoke an overreaction so as to weave narratives of abuse and oppression, and many States were playing into their hands. While States were united in their desire to eliminate international terrorism, the questionable legality of some counter-terrorism measures had made them divisive. Counter-terrorism efforts would undermine the values they sought to uphold and foster extremism conducive to terrorism if they did not respect the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. In that connection, efforts to combat the use of new communications technologies by terrorist organizations must not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy. The surveillance or interception of communications by States, including extraterritorially, could have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Furthermore, the Security Council must conduct proper follow-up to the increasing number of letters it was receiving from States seeking to justify the use of military force in the context of counter-terrorism, in most cases after the fact, and determine whether the States in question were fulfilling their obligations under the Charter.

74. Although it had no history of terrorist acts, Brazil had been attentive to prevention not only domestically, but also at the multilateral and regional levels. The threat of terrorism could only be countered through approaches that addressed its underlying causes, in particular protracted conflicts and social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Since terrorist groups attracted recruits by providing a false sense of purpose, belonging and identity, addressing legitimate grievances and promoting inclusion should be key elements of counter-terrorism efforts.

75. It was crucial to dispel the stereotypes that associated terrorism with specific cultures, religions or ethnicities and to eliminate discriminatory laws, prejudice and xenophobia. Responses to the refugee crisis should reduce, rather than increase, the risks associated with violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

76. **Ms. Özkan** (Turkey) said that Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations. Turkey continued to combat terrorist organizations such as ISIL, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and the Fethullah Terrorist Organization, the clandestine cult responsible for the attempted coup d'état of 15 July 2016. Her delegation was grateful to States that were supporting her country's efforts to combat that group. As a member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Turkey was actively contributing to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions by preventing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, enhancing its border security, taking measures to combat the financing of terrorism and bringing members of ISIL to justice.

77. Horrendous PKK attacks had claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians in Turkey over the past 14 months. Groups affiliated with the PKK were also active in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Europe. The PKK was attempting to exploit the situation in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic to portray itself as a legitimate group. Measures taken outside of Turkey to combat the financing, recruitment and propaganda activities of the PKK and its affiliates were therefore of the utmost importance.

78. The challenge posed by terrorism could only be addressed through international solidarity and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Turkey had long advocated for States to engage in stronger operational cooperation, the provision of capacity-building assistance and the sharing of best practices. Moreover, an appropriate international framework was needed to eliminate the existing legal gaps that were taken advantage of by terrorists. All States must take the necessary measures so that members of terrorist organizations were brought to justice. In that context, implementation of the universal principle of "extradite or prosecute" was crucial. Under no circumstances should safe havens be provided to members of terrorist organizations.

79. A clear message must be sent that no act of terrorism would go unpunished. Members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, must not be prevented from being brought to justice through the granting of asylum. States must not turn a blind eye to the propaganda and the financial and recruitment activities of terrorist organizations. Furthermore, all terrorist organizations must be fought with the same resolve. A selective approach to terrorist organizations was unacceptable. A terrorist organization should not and could not be legitimized under the pretext that it was fighting another terrorist organization. Similarly, terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group.

80. Terrorism would not be eliminated unless steps were taken to prevent the recruitment of new terrorists. Turkey had been implementing national programmes to counter violent extremism for more than 20 years and had actively contributed to multilateral efforts, including through the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Turkey had recently co-led the Forum's Initiative to Address the Life Cycle of Radicalization to Violence.

81. The United Nations, by virtue of its universal representation and its capacity to interlink various aspects of the fight against terrorism, was the main platform for promoting a concerted approach to countering terrorism. The Organization led global efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism and provided guidance and assistance to support Member States in the implementation of national measures through initiatives such as the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Turkey was a party to most United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism and actively contributed to capacity-building efforts and the work of United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

82. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provided important guidance and should be implemented across its four pillars. Turkey welcomed the resolution adopted during the review of the Strategy, as it sent a strong message and highlighted challenges such as the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters. Turkey also continued to diligently implement the Security Council resolutions on terrorism. Nevertheless, since prolonged conflicts were providing terrorist groups with safe havens and opportunities to recruit new members, the coherence and complementarity of existing counter-terrorism measures should be enhanced through the development of new approaches and tools.

83. Efforts to dismantle networks for the recruitment, financing and spread of propaganda of terrorist groups must continue. Bearing in mind the close link between

terrorism and organized crime, work must continue on combating drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms smuggling, which were primary sources of financing for terrorism.

84. Turkey reaffirmed its commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The strong stance that must be taken against terrorism must be based firmly on democratic principles and the rule of law. Respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were not only essential elements of successful strategies and but were also enhanced by effective counter-terrorism measures.

85. **Mr. Kafou** (Libya) reiterated his country's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of motivation and whenever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnic group or community. A distinction must be made between criminal terrorist acts and the legitimate struggle of peoples for the right to self-determination and against foreign occupation.

86. Terrorist organizations had continued to proliferate across the world, gaining recruits from a growing range of nationalities, particularly among young people. The international community had a responsibility to tackle the political, economic and social root causes of terrorism while respecting human rights, State sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. In particular, all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced and integrated manner. Extremist groups often sought safe haven in conflict-ridden countries, where they could exploit weak institutions and find recruits among the local population. Action should therefore be taken foster economic growth in such countries and support their institutions and law enforcement mechanisms.

87. Regional and international cooperation were needed in order to promote capacity-building, training and exchange of expertise, with due regard for the principle of national ownership. States should also work together to combat transnational crime and kidnap for ransom; exchange information and legal expertise; freeze and confiscate assets; and prosecute the perpetrators of terrorist offences, the worst of which amounted to crimes against humanity.

88. Libya was among the countries worst affected by terrorism. Groups affiliated with Al-Qaida and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) were endeavouring to overrun a number of Libyan cities in order to gain control over the country's resources. Their aim was to finance their activities and find a safe haven for terrorists from various countries. He urged the international community to support the Libyan authorities and army in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2214 (2015).

89. Libya reiterated its support for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to examine the issue of terrorism, and it called on all countries to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The latter should include a clear definition of terrorism and address its root causes and the conditions that allowed it to proliferate.

90. **Mr. Celarie Landaverde** (El Salvador) said that his Government condemned all acts of terrorism and was committed to the implementation of all necessary measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute those acts. El Salvador had ratified the majority of the regional and international conventions on terrorism. In 2006 it had brought into force a national law designed to ensure that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including terrorist financing and other related activities, was punished. More recently, the Supreme Court had adopted a resolution categorizing criminal organizations seeking to usurp the exercise of powers within the scope of State sovereignty, such as territorial control or the monopoly on the legitimate exercise of force, as terrorist organizations. Those national efforts reflected his country's firm commitment to combat terrorism and the importance it attached to the adoption of measures that respected the rule of law. All counter-terrorism measures must be legitimate, legal and enforceable.

91. The need for effective counter-terrorism measures was all the greater because terrorism threatened international peace and security and social and economic development. El Salvador was open to the strengthening of cooperation mechanisms and any other measures that would enable States to combine their efforts. In that connection, he urged Member States to work together towards the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism

and an agreed definition of terrorism. The topic of international terrorism should remain a priority for the Committee.

92. **Mr. Horna** (Peru) said that Peru was committed to international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and an international order based on the rule of law, which were indispensable foundations for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. His Government condemned all terrorist acts, methods and practices, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorist acts should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality or culture.

93. To combat the scourge of terrorism, the international community should adopt a comprehensive strategic vision accompanied by measures that respected international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. That vision should be designed and implemented at the national, regional and international levels.

94. His Government was working to implement the recommendations in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. As recognized in the Plan of Action, it was important to address the root causes of radicalization. In that connection, it was essential to prevent the subversion of religious discourse, reduce inequality and strengthen the social fabric in order to promote inclusion and avoid radicalization. States must therefore ensure that their national policies were in line with the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 16.

95. The rapid and dynamic expansion of terrorist groups was partly a result of the financial resources at their disposal. Involvement in various illegal activities had enabled terrorist groups to establish a parallel market. It was therefore necessary to cut off their sources of financing and their links to transnational organized crime, which provided them with funds, human resources and weapons. To that end, States should strengthen their activities the areas of financial intelligence and customs and increase their efforts to prevent money-laundering. His Government had adopted a law in 2016 giving the financial intelligence unit the power to freeze the assets and funds of persons with links to terrorism, the financing of terrorism or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and it was working to give the unit access to information protected by bank secrecy laws.

96. It was necessary to prevent terrorist groups from abusing civil society spaces to recruit members, raise funds or justify their actions, while ensuring that the rights to freedom of expression and association were not infringed. Similarly, States must respect their international obligations when undertaking measures to address the serious and increasing threats associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Strategies to address that threat should include prevention and possibly rehabilitation for returning fighters.

97. Peru supported all international and multilateral actions that were part of a systematic, sustained and efficient response to the threat of terrorism. In that regard, his delegation had participated in the fifth biennial review of the 2006 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of the resulting resolution.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.